

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
May 4, 2007**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. Commission Chairman Cameron Wheeler called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Commissioners Alex Irby, Bob Barowsky, Wayne Wright and Randy Budge responded to the roll call. Commissioners Tony McDermott and Gary Power were absent.

Present in the Director's Office: Director Cal Groen, Steve Yundt, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries; Sam Sharr, Fisheries Anadromous Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Niels Nokkentved, Information Specialist; Mike Keckler, Chief, Bureau of Communications; Roger Phillips, reporter from *The Idaho Statesman*; Doug Schleis, *Wild Idaho News*; and public Jason and Michelle Gluck.

Sharon Kiefer, Anadromous Fishery Manager; Dave Caldwellader, Clearwater Regional Supervisor, and staff; Eric Barker, reporter from the *Lewiston Tribune* participated via telephone.

The meeting was called to consider staff proposals for 2007 chinook salmon seasons.

RULES

Game Fish: 2007 Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits

Sam Sharr, Anadromous Fishery Coordinator, provided an update on the Chinook salmon run (Appendix 40, Exhibit 41). He reported that the updated forecast over Bonneville Dam is 78,500 spring Chinook. The updated forecast at Lower Granite Dam is 27,700 fish. He noted that the run is late but not as late as the 2006 run.

Sam Sharr reviewed the staff proposal for the 2007 chinook seasons, including rules that remain the same as in 2006 unless specifically noted in the 2007 proposal; 2007 season opening and closing dates; and boundaries. Mr. Sharr noted that some boundaries have changed from the previous season

Mr. Sharr advised that proposed season closures are by date or "until further notice, whichever comes first," which indicates closure may occur for biological purposes such as quota.

07-64 COMMISSIONER IRBY MOVED AND COMMISSIONER BAROWSKY SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT BY PROCLAMATION THE STAFF PROPOSAL FOR THE 2007 CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS. THE TEMPORARY RULES WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL ADOPTED BY PERMANENT RULES BY THE LEGISLATURE. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

2007 SPRING CHINOOK FISHERIES PROPOSAL FOR RULEMAKING

FISHING RULES

No Change from *Idaho 2006 Spring Chinook Salmon Seasons & Rules* unless specifically noted in the 2007 proposal.

SEASONS

Clearwater Drainage

OPENING DATES:

May 11

Mainstem Clearwater River (see **new** boundary definition)

North Fork Clearwater (see boundary definition)

Upper Mainstem Clearwater River (see **new** boundary definition)

South Fork Clearwater River (see boundary definition)

May 26

Lochsa River

DAYS OF FISHING: Friday through Monday (4 days a week), effective on the respective opening dates until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or July 16, whichever comes first.

Mainstem Salmon River

OPENING DATE: May 11

Lower Salmon River-Hammer Creek (see **new** boundary definition)

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or June 25, whichever comes first.

DAYS OF FISHING: Friday through Monday (4 days a week), effective on the respective opening dates until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

Little Salmon River

OPENING DATE: May 11

Little Salmon River (see boundary definition)

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or August 5, whichever comes first.

DAYS OF FISHING: Friday through Monday (4 days a week), effective May 11 until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

Snake River

OPENING DATE: May 11
Upper Snake River (see boundary definition)

CLOSING DATE: Closure upon further notice or July 16, whichever comes first.

DAYS OF FISHING
Friday through Monday, effective May 11 until further notice or the closure date, whichever comes first.

Statewide

FISHING HOURS: Fishing for Chinook salmon is permitted only ½ hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, local time.

LIMITS FOR SPRING CHINOOK FISHERIES (include jacks in creel)
Daily = 1 Possession = 3 Season = 10

BOUNDARIES: Note that some section boundaries have changed from previous seasons.

Upper Snake River:
From the Dug Bar boat ramp upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.

Mainstem Clearwater River:
From the Railroad Bridge at Lewiston upstream to the Cherrylane Bridge.

Upper Mainstem Clearwater River:
From the Orofino Bridge upstream to the Kamiah Bridge.

North Fork Clearwater River:
From the mouth to Dworshak Dam excluding the perimeter of Dworshak Hatchery.

South Fork Clearwater River:
From its mouth upstream to the confluence of American and Red rivers.

Lochsa River:

From its mouth upstream to the Twin Bridges immediately upstream from the confluence of Crooked Fork and Cold Killed Creeks.

Lower Salmon River-Hammer Creek:

From the Hammer Creek boat ramp upstream to the Time Zone Bridge.

Little Salmon River:

From a posted line at the mouth of the Little Salmon River upstream to U. S. Highway 95 bridge near Smokey Boulder Road.

METHODS OF TAKE: Note that A. through D. same as 2006.

- A. Unlawful to use any hook larger than 5/8 inch.
- B. Fishing prohibited after attainment of limits.
- C. Chinook may be taken only with barbless hooks.
- D. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take salmon by snagging.
- E. In the Lochsa River, salmon may only be taken with artificial flies and lures with one barbless hook per fly or lure (no bait). A single hook may have up to 3 points.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary